

(c) Expansion of postal services is achieved through opening of new Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices (EDBOS) in rural area and departmental sub offices (DSO) in urban area. During the last three years 675 EDBOS and 199 DSOs were opened in the country. The existing norms for opening new EDBOS in normal area provide for subsidy upto 66 2/3% of the estimated cost, while for tribal/hilly and inaccessible area, the permissible amount of subsidy is 85% of the estimated cost. DSOs in urban area are opened if the estimated revenue covers the estimated cost.

In the circumstances the Department has not earned any additional revenue due to opening of these post offices.

(d) and (e). The work of computerisation of post offices have been initiated in the 8th Five Year Plan and is continuing. 2300 number of PC based counter machines have been installed in 680 Post Offices in the country, and 69 Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSATs) stations have already become operational with computer based technology which are providing speedy transmission of money order and other value added services. Automated Mail processing Centres with computer technology have been set up in Bombay and Madras. Computers have also been introduced in modernising the work of Savings Bank, Postal Life Insurance in post offices.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Private Telephone Operators

3464. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any agreement (Inter connectivity) has been signed between the DOT and the Private Telephone Service Operators;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, including terms and conditions;
- (c) whether Private Telephone Service Operators abide by the rules, norms and conditions of the agreement in its full context; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Opening of a College of Catering in Karnataka

3465. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal before the Union Government to open a college of catering in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) has been asked to examine the issue;

(c) if so, the estimated cost alongwith the location of the proposed college;

(d) the annual recurring expenditure for the proposed college;

(e) whether the Karnataka Government has decided to provide land and other infrastructural facilities for the establishment of such college;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the time by which it is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (g). Do not arise.

An Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition has already been established at Bangalore in 1984 by the Govt. of India.

Industrial Training Institutes for Women

3466. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :
SHRI RAJESH RANJAN *alias* PAPPU YADAV :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes being implemented in Orissa and Bihar for imparting industrial training to women under the World Bank assisted Vocational Training Project;

(b) the number of existing Industrial Training Institutes for women in the above states and the number of such institutes proposed to be opened during the current year, state-wise and location-wise;

(c) the amount of World Bank assistance received for opening the above Institutes; and

(d) the number of women trained in these institutes so far and proposed to be trained during 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Two schemes, namely "Establishment of New ITIs/Wings for Women" and "Introduction of New Trades in Existing Women ITIs/Wings," are being implemented in